Bird strike

Due to the increased urbanisation and industrialisation bird hazard to aircraft is on the increase. The steps taken to avoid bird strike accidents are:—

(i) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been set up under the Chairmanship of the concerned Collector/Distt. Magistrate to take necessary steps to keep the environment around airfields safe for flying.

(ii) Bird hazard combat teams have been established on an experimental basis at 5 selected airfields. These teams report bird activity to pilots and also kill/scare away the birds.

(iii) Use of bird watchers at airfields to keep pilots informed about bird activity in the arfield circuit areas.

(iv) Publicity drive by means of radio, TV newspapers and posters is being undertaken to educate the general public about bird hazard to aircraft and necessity to maintain clean environment around airfields.

(v) The State Govenments and local bodies are being regularly contacted to take steps for sanitisation of areas outside the perimeter of Defence airfields.

Delay in appointment of judges

1636. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the conferences Chief Justices have expressed a strong view point about the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High courts in the existing vacancies if so, what is the position of vacancies; by when Government propose to fill up these vacancies, so that the pendency may be cleared in the shortest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): As on 1st March 1988, there were 9 vacancies in the authorised strength of 26 Judges in the Supreme Court, and 65 vacancies in the total sanctioned strength of 443 Judges in various High Courts of the country.

2. The Coneference of Chief Justice held in December, 1987 emphasised filling up of the vacancies of Judges as expeditiously as possible after effective consultation with the concerned authorities.

3. The Government have reiterated the instructions prescribing the time schedule wherein the Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers and Governors of States have to send their recommendations for filling in posts of Judges in High Courts, and have requested them to adhere to it so that the vacancies are filled in expeditiously.

4. Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and it a continuous process. It is not possible to indica any define time for filling up vacanc of Judges in the Supreme Court and Hi, Courts.

Elimination of Intermediate and short range missiles

1637. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken by Government as a follow up of the recent treaty on elimination of intermediate and short range missiles signed at the Washington Summit between big two nuclear powers and towards signing of treaty between nuclear powers for elimination of all nuclear weapons and prevention of production and development of nuclear weapons aimed at establishing permanent world peace free from nuclear weapons; and

(b) how far the Big powers are nearer to signing of such a treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Government of India welcomed the INF